

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated July 25, 2007, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire October 25, 2007.

Claims 50, 53, and 61 are patentable over Jayaraman, Iwamura, and JP518

Claim 50, as amended, now recites:

A method of minimizing collisions in a CSMA/CA wireless data communication system using an access point, the method comprising:

sensing the presence of a client desirous of communication with the access point;

allocating a start time slot list having at least one unique start time slot during which the client may begin transmitting;

transmitting the start time slot list to the client; and

receiving a transmission from the client, the transmission beginning only during the start time slot(s) indicated by the start time slot list,

wherein allocating includes:

assigning at least one pair of a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot substantially equally displaced in time from a center start time slot.

Applicant respectfully submits that Jayaraman, Iwamura, and JP518 fail to disclose or suggest the recited assigning. Specifically, Jayaraman teaches nothing about a pair of time slots, wherein the pair includes a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot. Iwamura merely teaches that during arbitration for a time slot, transmissions having higher priority win over transmission of lower priority. Col. 11, lines 2-4. Therefore, Iwamura also teaches nothing about a pair of time slots, wherein the pair includes a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot. JP518, as much as

can be understood by the translated abstract and drawings, also does not teach the recited assigning. Specifically, it appears that JP518 divides the time slots for uplink (U) and downlink (D) circuits. For example, in FIG. 1, a plurality of uplink time slots 1-N are assigned, which are followed by a plurality of downlink time slots 1-M. Notably, the abstract of JP518 teaches nothing about a pair of time slots, wherein the pair includes a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot. Because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest **assigning at least one pair of a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot substantially equally displaced in time from a center start time slot**, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 50.

Claim 53, as amended, now recites:

A method of minimizing collisions in a CSMA/CA wireless data communication system using an access point, the method comprising:

- sensing the presence of a client desirous of communication with the access point;
- allocating a start time slot list having at least one unique start time slot during which the client may begin transmitting;
- transmitting the start time slot list to the client; and
- receiving a transmission from the client, the transmission beginning only during the start time slot(s) indicated by the start time slot list,

wherein the start time slot list includes a high-priority time slot and a low-priority time slot substantially equally displaced in time from a center time slot.

Therefore, Claim 53 is patentable for substantially the same reasons presented for Claim 50. Based on those reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 53.

Claim 61, as amended, now recites:

An access point that minimizes collisions in a CSMA/CA wireless data communication system, the access point comprising:

a client sensor for detecting the presence of a client desirous of communication with the access point;

a start time slot allocator for allocating a start time slot list having one or more unique start time slots during which the client may begin to transmit;

an access point transmitter for transmitting the start time slot list to a client receiver; and

an access point receiver for receiving a transmission from the client, the transmission being received only during the start time slot(s) indicated by the start time slot list,

wherein the start time slot allocator comprises:

a start time slot generator for generating at least one pair of a high-priority time slot and a low-priority start time slot, the high-priority time slot and the low-priority start time slot substantially equally displaced in time from a center start time slot.

Therefore, Claim 61 is patentable for substantially the same reasons presented for Claim 50. Based on those reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 61.

Claim 57 is patentable over Jayaraman, Iwamura, JP518 and Elaoud

Claim 57, as amended, now recites:

A client capable of receiving the start time slot list of claim 53, the client selecting between the high-priority start time slot and the low-priority start time slot based on a randomizing function.

Claim 57 depends from Claim 53 and therefore is patentable for at least the reasons presented for Claim 53. Applicant notes that Elaoud fails to remedy the deficiency of Jayaraman,

Iwamura, and JP518 with respect to Claim 53. Specifically, Elaoud also fails to teach anything about a **pair of a high-priority start time slot and a low-priority start time slot substantially equally displaced in time from a center start time slot**. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 57.

CONCLUSION

Claims 50, 53, 57, and 61 are pending in the present application. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at 408-451-5907 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeanette S. Harms', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

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